

Docket # 98 P-0151/CPI

April 30, 2000

Commissioner,

5512 '00 MAY -5 AM 5:51

Good day. I hope I find you in good spirits I also hope you have a few moments to read my letter. Sir, my name is Jessica Lee and I'm writing to you on behalf of myself and those who cannot speak.

Sir, I have been a vegetarian for a short time. The reason being after reading up on and studying books and pictures about raising and slaughtering of animals for human consumption. I felt so much sorrow for the animals I could no longer ignore that I was taking a life for my selfish desires.

I don't believe you have the right to make your beliefs the beliefs of another. That's why I will not try to make you understand where I'm coming from. Instead what I beg you for is one thing. It is not right to use an animal for food if it is suffering and dying. 1) That animal could be carrying a disease that can be transmitted to a human and cause them problems in the long run. 2) Could you imagine the tremendous anguish and pain that animal is feeling. 3) We are the only ones who can speak out about these cruel acts of violence. The animals have no voices and we do. Who knows maybe we can make a difference no matter how small it is. I have enclosed a few pages of material I thought you might be interested in. I'm very thankful for your time if you have anything to add I have enclosed my address. I would be happy to hear from you.

Best Wishes,  
Jessica N. Lee

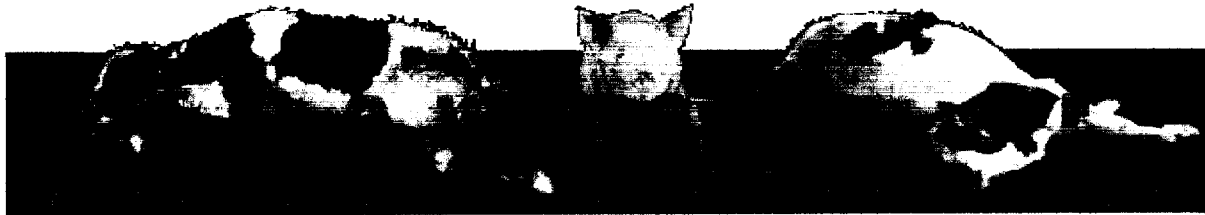
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PLEASE, PLEASE HELP THEM !!!  
PLEASE!

98 P-0151

C2310

If were anina to use our animals. At least we should treat them



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## Downed animal . . .

Just the words produce an image of a suffering, sick animal. Sadly, this nightmarish vision is all too real every year for tens of thousands of animals at stockyards, slaughterhouses, and production farms. The meat and dairy industries call them "downers"—animals so diseased or badly injured that they cannot even walk.



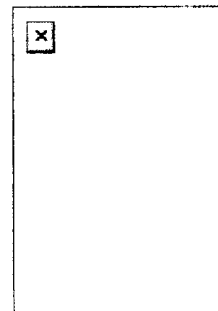
The meat and dairy industries deal in "downers" because they can still sell them for human consumption. Profits, not humane considerations, guides industry practice and downed animals suffer gross negligence and abuse at livestock facilities across the country.

Downed animals commonly lay in alleyways, without food, water, or veterinary care, until it's convenient to take them to slaughter---usually the next day. In many cases, the animals die of neglect. Downed animals are typically moved by the easiest, but least humane ways. They are dragged



with chains or pushed with tractors or forklifts---practices which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to torn ligaments and broken bones.

Downed animals are not protected from abuse under federal animal welfare laws and most state anti-cruelty laws. These laws exclude "normal agricultural operation" and so any act, no matter how cruel, is legal as long as it is considered "business as usual." Farm Sanctuary investigators document hundreds of cases of downed animal cruelties at livestock facilities across the country:



- In South Dakota, a downed cow was dumped alive into a cart full of garbage.
- In New York, a day-old calf was dragged into a stockyard by his

ears.

- In Pennsylvania, a living sheep was dumped on a stockyard "dead pile."
- In Texas, a cow with a broken back was abandoned at an auction.
- In Minnesota, incapacitated pigs were left in pens, and slowly starved to death.

The meat and dairy industries will continue to use, and abuse, "downers" until we pass laws to ban downed animal cruelties.

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### Photographs: Cows

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Click on the image for a larger photo



Slaughterhouse



Veal farm



Standard milking  
practice



Veal calf



Livestock grazing  
area



Slaughterhouse



Slaughterhouse  
scrap bin



Calf branding



Dairy farm



Veal calf



Slaughterhouse


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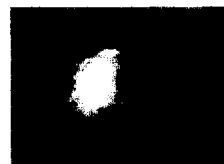
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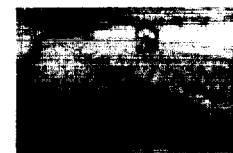
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Chicken  
Slaughterhouse



Broiler hen



Tyson grower's  
broiler house



Turkey Truck  
accident



Abcessed foot of  
battery hen



Broiler chicken



Turkey Truck



Slaughterhouse



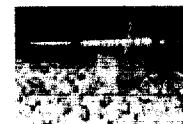
Slaughterhouse



Battery hens



Foie gras farm



Broiler chickens



Live chicks found  
in dumpster  
outside hatchery



Duck being force  
fed on foie gras  
farm



Broiler chickens  
being unloaded



Tyson's  
Slaughterhouse



Foie gras farm



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## Photographs: Pigs

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Baby pig in battery cage



Slaughterhouse



Pig Farm



Mother pigs



Farrowing stall



Pig truck accident



Slaughterhouse  
dead pile



Slaughterhouse



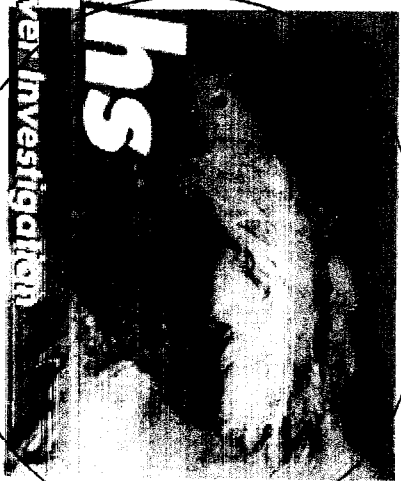
Pig farm

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# Lethalogs

Turkey Farm Cruelty: A PETA Undercover Investigation



The Case

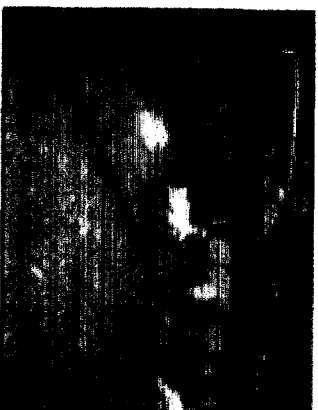
The  
Videotape

Photographs

What You  
Can Do

Photographs taken at Crestview Farms.

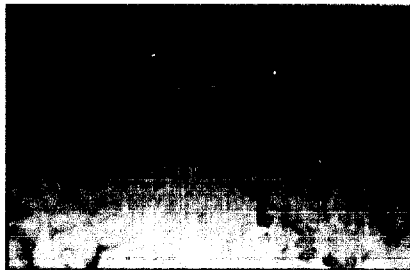
Click on the image to view a larger version.



Sir,  
They deserve  
the right to be  
put down humanely.







*Handwritten signature or initials.*

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## Alternatives: Testing Without Torture

In the near future, laboratories might be hanging signs outside their doors saying, "No admittance to rats and rabbits." Alternatives to animal tests are efficient and reliable, both for cosmetics and household product tests and for medical research. In most cases, non-animal methods take less time to complete, cost only a fraction of what the animal experiments they replace cost, and are not plagued with species differences that make extrapolation difficult or impossible.

### Products Without Pain

Pharmagene Laboratories, based in Royston, England, is the first company to use only human tissues and sophisticated computer technologies in the process of drug development and testing. With tools from molecular biology, biochemistry, and analytical pharmacology, Pharmagene conducts extensive studies of human genes and how drugs affect these genes or the proteins they make. While some companies have used animal tissues for this purpose, Pharmagene scientists believe that the discovery process is much more efficient with human tissues. "If you have information on human genes, what's the point of going back to animals?" says Pharmagene cofounder Gordon Baxter.(1)

Instead of dripping chemicals into animals' eyes to test toxicity, researchers can now grow a thin layer of cells on a membrane and monitor changes in electrical resistance in the cells as they are exposed to test chemicals.(2)

Avon Products, Inc., which until June of 1989 killed about 24,000 animals a year to test its products, now uses many non-animal tests, including the Irritation Assay System (formerly known as Eytex and Skintex) and an in vitro test used to assess irritancy levels of substances. It mimics the reaction of the cornea and human skin when exposed to foreign substances and can be used to determine the toxicity of more than 5,000 different materials.

Corrositex is an in vitro test approved by the Department of Transportation as a substitute for the traditional rabbit skin test. The test assesses corrosivity using a protein membrane designed to function like skin. The method gives results in just a few hours for as little as \$100 per test.(3)

Three companies have developed artificial "human skin" which can be used in skin grafts for burn victims and other patients and can replace animals in product tests.(4)

Scientists can also use mathematical and computer models, based on

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physical and chemical structures and properties of a substance, to make predictions about the toxicity of a substance. One such software package, TOPKAT, which predicts oral toxicity and skin and eye irritation, is used by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Army.

Using computers, scientists have built an accurate working model of a human heart that will allow researchers to test new treatments electronically before they are attempted on humans. Computerized "virtual organs" predict how drugs will be absorbed and metabolized, so drug companies can now test the effects of substances electronically before ever trying them on a person.

Other toxicological test kits allow drugmakers and cosmetics manufacturers to run tests that indicate whether the compounds used in products will cause cancer or other medical problems. Using integrated molecular assay systems that show how human and animal bacterial cells react when exposed to various compounds, the kits allow manufacturers to test thousands of potentially toxic compounds a year more quickly and cheaply than the compounds could be tested through the use of animals.(5)

## **Medical Applications**

In medicine, perhaps the most informative research takes place not in test tubes, but in hospitals and clinics and the offices of statisticians and epidemiologists. Clinical surveys, human volunteers, case studies, autopsy reports, and statistical analyses permit far more accurate observation and use of actual environmental factors related to human disease than is possible with animals confined in laboratories, who contract diseases in conditions vastly different from the situations that confront humans. Long before the famous "smoking beagle" experiments began, statisticians and epidemiologists knew that cigarette smoking caused cancer in humans, yet programs to warn people about the hazards of smoking were delayed while more animal tests were carried out (to the satisfaction of the tobacco industry) and proved "inconclusive."

## **Time and Money**

Non-animal tests are generally faster and less expensive than the animal tests they replace and improve upon.(6)

In cancer studies, animal tests of a single substance may take four to eight years and cost \$400,000 or more, whereas short-term non-animal studies cost as little as \$200-\$4,000 and can be completed in just days. The dangers of waiting years for results of animal tests are apparent: In 1985, the EPA determined that three animal tests had not shown a sufficient degree of danger in the pesticide Alar, and it called on the manufacturer to conduct still more cancer studies on animals. Now, years later, these studies are still incomplete. Although the EPA has pulled Alar from the market, non-animal tests would have taken a matter of days or months, not years, and could have meant that fewer consumers would have come into contact with Alar-treated products.

## **Learning to Help Without Harming**

More and more medical students are becoming conscientious objectors, and many students now graduate without having used animals; instead, they learn by assisting experienced surgeons. In Great Britain, it is against the law for medical students to practice surgery on animals, and many of the leading U.S. medical schools, including Harvard, Yale, and Stanford, now use innovative, clinical teaching methods instead of old-fashioned animal laboratories. Harvard, for instance, offers a Cardiac Anesthesia Practicum, where students observe human heart bypass operations instead of dog labs.

## Moving Forward

Professor Michael Balls, head of the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM), says, "Many regulators feel more comfortable with animal tests, even with tests that are known to be unreliable and of questionable relevance." (7)

For scientific, health, ethical, and economic reasons, researchers and regulators must switch their focus to non-animal tests, and the large number of animal experiments that are conducted more out of "curiosity" or habit, rather than out of a real need for information, should be eliminated at once.

## What You Can Do

- If you own stock in a company that conducts animal tests, introduce a shareholder resolution opposing the use of animals.
- Ask the FDA to stop requiring cruel and obsolete animal tests for pharmaceuticals and allow companies to substitute in vitro tests.

## References

- (1) Reuters, "British Company Pioneers Non-Animal Tests," 29 Aug. 1996.
- (2) "New Toxicity Test Designed to Spare Laboratory Animals," Orlando Sentinel, 23 Aug. 1996.
- (3) Wade Roush, "Hunting for Animal Alternatives," *Science*, 11 Oct. 1996, p. 168.
- (4) Lawrence M. Fisher, "3 Companies Speed Artificial Skin," *The New York Times*, 12 Sep. 1990.
- (5) David Algeo, "Big Plans on Tap for Xenometrix," *Denver Post*, 18 Oct. 1996.
- (6) Barnaby J. Feder, "Beyond White Rats and Rabbits," *The New York Times*, 28 Feb. 1988, Sec. 3, p. 1.
- (7) Shelley M. Colwell, "Alternative Action," *Soap/Cosmetics/Chemical Specialties*, 19 Oct. 1996, p. 56.

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Jessica N. Lee  
277 S Brookhurst St #C222  
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